

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 West Gano Chance Road
Centralia, Missouri 65240**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26, 2025**

Theme: I am Accountable

AS WE GATHER

Sometimes we like to think that we can do everything by ourselves, without the involvement or interference of others. The truth is, we need guidance and direction from God and the trusted support of others to hold us accountable as stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care. Without accountability we are tempted to do things we shouldn't do, or to neglect doing what we should be doing. Accountability protects us from ourselves. In today's Gospel Jesus tells us a parable that shows us what it looks like to be accountable servants of Christ.

WELCOME

Pastor James Lanning

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DIVINE SERVICE (Setting Two)
Lutheran Service Book pp. 167-183**

OPENING HYMN – “O Day of Rest and Gladness”

LSB 906

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P. 167

HYMN – “Take My Life and Let It Be” (replaces the Introit)

LSB 783

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**FIRST READING – Ezekiel 18”26-32 (ESV)
(Repent and live!)**

Reader: Curt Nadler

When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-24 (ESV)
(Instructions for God's people).**

Reader: Curt Nadler

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While

people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. ¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 173

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV)

(The parable of the Talents).

[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

LSB 702

MESSAGE – “We Are Accountable”

Pastor Lanning

APOSTLE’S CREED

P. 175

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

P. 176

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN – “Praise and Thanksgiving”

LSB 789

NEXT SUNDAY

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. **Steward Relationship: God** (led by Pastor Lanning)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

2.01 Women’s Retreat at Campus

2.04 Elders – 7 pm

2.05 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

2.10 LWML - 1pm

2.12 – 2.15 Pastor and Catherine at Best Practices

2.12 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

2.13 Heritage Hall – 2 pm

2.15 Sweetheart Banquet – 5 pm

2.19 Worship Committee – 4 pm

2.19 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

2.26 ZOOM Prayer Group – 8 pm

BIRTHDAYS – no birthdays this next week.

ANNIVERSARYS – **Lisa and Kyle Smith** – February 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sweetheart Banquet – sponsored by Senior Youth to attend the National Youth Gathering – **Saturday, February 15th, dinner served from 5-7 pm**, with dancing to follow. Make your reservations with Alane Gronefeld, Ann Seider or by calling the church office. Childcare services are available. On the menu: brisket, potato, salad, vegetable, bread, and dessert. Please share with family, friends, and neighbors.

Quarterly Voters Meeting – after the potluck lunch following today’s service. Meeting packets are available on the table in the narthex or at the meeting.

Items for the February Newsletter are due by 10:00 am on Wednesday, January 29th.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Tammy Morgan – (Sherry Morse’s daughter) – health issues; **Bill Mahieu** – at Heritage Hall; **Ken Manola** –shoulder injury; **Bob Moss** – (Brenda’s husband) – heart attack and surgery to place stent; **Christina DeJesus (Jane St. John’s daughter)** – health issues; **Savannah and Taylor**–parents of Reagan Louise; **Reagan Louise**–in NICU recovering from surgery for repair of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia; **Brenda Belt** (Henry Rainey’s sister) – Stage IV Cancer; **Grace** – health issues (friend of Hannah Lanning); **Steve Buckert** – cancer treatments; **Jenni Murray**–Margaret Parker’s daughter–injured in motorcycle accident; **Ron Borgman**; **Ryan James**–cousin of Betsy Cochran–health issues; **Dick St. John**–Brenda Moss’s father–health issues; **Kim & Terry Decker**–health issues; **Craig**–suffering with spinal stenosis–friend of Randy Simmons; **Verda Adkisson**; **Mark Blanton**–Betsy Cochran’s cousin–waiting for liver transplant; **Ed & Ernestine Ramsey**; **Judy Mahieu**; **Kyle Lutz**–recovering from kidney/pancreas transplant; **Bonnie Berthelsen**; **Mark Ramsey**; **Calvin Stemme**–treatment for cancer; **Julia Rainey**; **Jane St. John**; **Dennis & Jackie Nadler**; **Susan Harris**; **Wayne Nolan**–stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; **Michelle Smith**–daughter of Jane St John; **Arla Benskin**–daughter of Mary Brechler.

Missionaries - Pastor Tim Schulte and wife Erin

Community Prayers: Father Mike Coleman; **Evie Ross**–infant needs heart transplant; **Dylan Dick**–health issues; **David**–health issues; **Fran Schnarre**–health issues; **Donna Hargis** – cancer treatments; **Gail Dobbs**–cancer treatments.

ARMED FORCES: Christopher Thompson, U. S. Navy – cousin of Hannah Lanning; **Brandon Lowery**, U.S. Navy–brother of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard**, U.S. Marine Corps–grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Chris Chism**, U.S. Navy–son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin**–great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; **Zachary Warden**–grandson of Betty Warden; Community: **Ray Finlay**, U.S. Army

Church Directory

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